(d) if so, the strategies to be adopted by Government to safeguard the interest of the labourers and upliftment of labour laws in SEZ in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) ILO has not explicitly urged the Government of India to fulfil its commitment on safeguarding labour laws in the Special Economic Zones. However, ILO Committee on Freedom of Association and Committee on Application of Conventions and Recommendations have requested Government of India to provide information and ensure the principles of Freedom of Association and labour inspections in the Special Economic Zones.

(b) Government of India has informed ILO Committees that the principle of Freedom of Association is being maintained in all manufacturing units including Special Economic Zones.

(c) ILO has mentioned that most of the Special Economic Zones worldwide are being covered by the respective National Labour Legislation barring few cases where investors are exempted from some of the basic provisions of Labour Laws to attract the investment. In few cases the lack of resources to monitor the enterprises also results in compromise with some of the Labour Laws.

(d) The Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 does not preclude applicability of the Labour Laws in SEZs.

**Legislation for Unorganised Sector Workers**

377. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question No. 1166 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22.8.2007 regarding countrywide strike by workers of unorganised sector and state:

(a) whether in a meeting with all the Central Trade Unions (CTUs) held on 11th August, 2007 at New Delhi, Government sought the opinion of the CTUs; and

(b) whether Central Trade Unions unanimously demanded two separate comprehensive legislations for Agricultural workers and Unorganised sector (non-agricultural) workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Most of the Central Trade Unions suggested to bring two separate comprehensive legislations for Agricultural and Non-Agricultural workers.

**Technical Expert Group on foreign assistance for rural development**

378. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is working out a plan to monitor and regulate foreign assistance for rural development in India more strictly and has set up a seven-member high powered Technical Expert Group to scrutinize the ongoing rural development programmes in different regions of the country and recommended ways to streamline the fund flow in the regions which are in utmost need;

(b) if so, by what time technical group is likely to submit its recommendations; and

(c) the steps being considered to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise. However, a High-Powered Technical Expert Group (TEG)